

itdisasterrecovery

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At a Superfund recovery site,
isn't GIS essential?

After a chemical spill,
how invaluable is IRIS?

When a hurricane
disrupts power
to your lab,
how do you
communicate?

Disaster recovery for a business refers to a business continuity or contingency plan that describes how an organization is to deal with potential disasters, natural or manmade. Disaster recovery not only consists of restoration of normal functions, communication, and resources (like offices, webpages, etc.) but precautions taken to minimize effects of disasters. In the wake of the September 2001 terrorist attacks and subsequent real and warnings of potential terrorist incidents, Federal government including EPA has given renewed attention to continuity of operations (COOP) and disaster recovery issues.

At EPA, disaster recovery services provide information technology (IT) customers with protection and recovery support for **critical applications**. Like insurance premiums, having a DR subscription directs the National Computer Center to protect, back-up, and restore your critical information, as well as plan infrastructure for the protection of a customer's data.

Within 12 hours, the National Computer restores T1 connection to enable e-mail and BlackBerry service, security firewalls, and a splash page that says "Sorry" the www.epa.gov website is down temporarily.

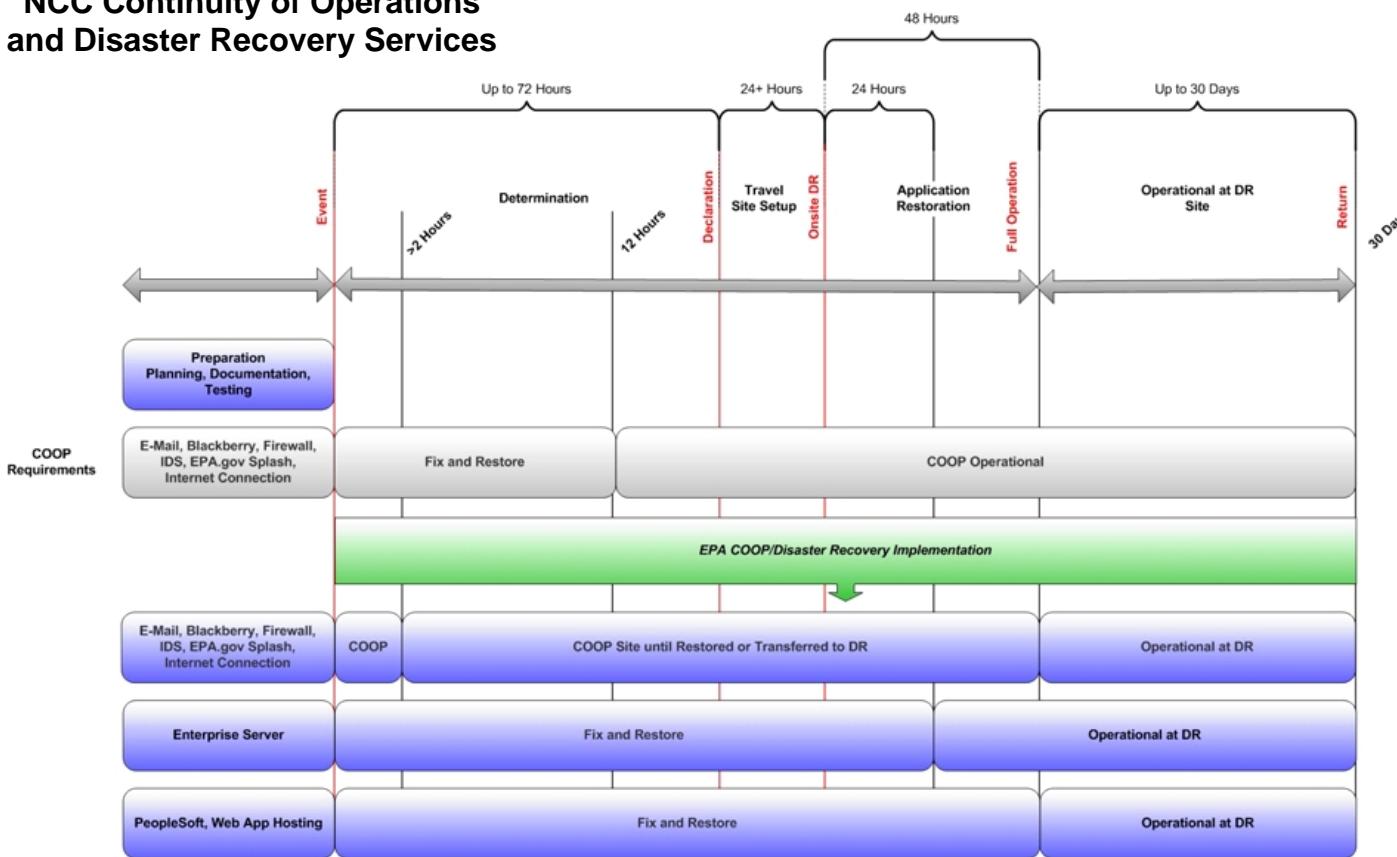
Within 24 hours of a disaster declaration, the designated critical response team departs for the disaster recovery site. Systems will be available for customer use within 48 hours of arrival at the alternate site. These services can also be used to add new requirements to an application that has already been designated as critical.

Usually under 72 hours, the National Computer Center restores all other IT services including the public website.

Note that **high performance computing scientific data stored at the National Computer Center is currently not protected because customers do not subscribe to the Disaster Recovery services**.

Furthermore, **EPA's scientific data that is not kept at the National Computer Center is not protected under Disaster Recovery but may be 'critical data' because it was or will be used to set an Agency standard**.

NCC Continuity of Operations and Disaster Recovery Services



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